

*"In 1856 while working at Church Pastures I was knocked down by an oxen. He throwed me so heavy on my back that my feet came over and doubled me up, so that he jumped on me and drove his horns into my legs. He doubled me up so short that it sprung my neck in the big joint. I was so broken up that I couldn't stand. Another time I was caught by a lasso rope and dragged by a wild horse, and once my foot caught in a stirrup and I was dragged quite a bit, but it didn't hurt me."*<sup>25</sup>

✓ On April 13th, 1836 Jane Sharp was born at Clark-Manin, Scotland and three years later, on April 17th, 1839 Elizibeth Hunter was born on the same street in that same Scottish village. The two girls were raised next door to each other and grew up as close friends, attending the same school and church. As young women both were baptized by Mormon missionaries. Jane's father, Nathaniel Sharp died of miner's consumption in Scotland, leaving a destitute wife with several small children, Jane being one of them. Jane's mother also joined the Mormon Church and with her small children made her way to America on a crowded sailing ship, the long voyage taking nine months. They made their way to Salt Lake City, arriving in 1850. Jane, then age 14 walked barefoot all the way across the plains.

Elizibeth Hunter followed her friend Jane Sharp to America on the sailing ship North Atlantic in 1850 with her mother, two sisters, and a brother. Her father had been expected to follow them, but like Jane Sharp's father, he too died in Scotland. Elizibeth's mother died of cholera and was buried by the side of the Mississippi, although Elizibeth never knew where. At the age of 13 Elizibeth was left alone in a strange land with two younger sisters and a baby brother to care for. An uncle took in one of the sisters and found a place for the other in a wagon train heading west, leaving Elizibeth alone with her brother Jimmie, only 6 years old. Driving a milch cow ahead of her and with her brother by the hand she walked barefoot across the prairies and mountains to Zion, arriving at Salt Lake City on August 13th, 1852.

At Salt Lake City the two girls enjoyed a happy reunion and renewed their friendship. Both soon found employment at Church Pastures working for Joseph Murdock, milking cows and helping Eliza make butter and cheese. Joseph's journal is silent about any courtship he may have had with either Jane Sharp or

25. Journal JSM.



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Elizibeth Hunter, but on June 11th, 1854 he was married to both in a ceremony performed by Brigham Young at the Endowment House. Jane was 18 years old while Elizibeth was 15. Joseph was then 32 years old. His third and fourth marriages proved to be very happy, and in time greatly increased his family. Jane Sharp gave him nine children while Elizibeth Hunter gave birth to eleven. Joseph could no longer doubt Hyrum Smith's Patriarchal Blessing that he would have a large family!

The following year, on October 13th, 1855 his brother Nymphus married Sarah Melissa Barney, a pretty girl only one year younger than he. His close friend N.C. Hanks described the marriage, but perhaps with tongue in cheek. *"One day Nymphus complained about his mother's cooking, so she replied, 'If you don't like my cooking go and get yourself a wife, you are old enough and big enough to marry!'"* He immediately put on his best bedtick shirt and called on Sarah Barney. They were playing a chess game when he proposed, and when she accepted on such short acquaintance he did not have a ring to seal the bargain, but instead gave her a Mexican dollar as a pledge, which bound their marriage for life in the absence of a ring. When their marriage began, their total dowry consisted of a butcher knife, a frying pan and an axe. Their courtship was short, but their union was life long."<sup>26</sup>

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